GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:263
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005
EXPLORATION OF OIL RESOURCES
Patil Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar;Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has explored some new oil reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the oil extraction work at these places is likely to be started;

(c) the extent to which the extraction of oil from the newly found oil reserves will help in meeting the domestic requirements;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to ensure oil security of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.263 BY SHRIMATI RUPATAI DILIPRAO NILANGAKAR PATIL &SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2005 REGARDING EXPLORATION OF OIL RESOURCES.

(a) & (b) : A total of 4 oil discoveries and 5 discoveries of oil along with natural gas have been made during the year 2004-05. Details of these discoveries are given below :

These discoveries are under appraisal / assessment.

Details of Discoveries/established reserves of oil as well as natural gas made from April, 2002 to July, 2005 are detailed in the Annex.

It may be noted that after a discovery is made, it is appraised to establish its commerciality on the basis of reserves and, later, techno-economic feasibility. Once commerciality is established, a development and production plan is prepared to exploit the oil and gas reserves. Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) signed by the Government prescribe a time frame for each of these activities / steps.

From the oil discoveries made in the Rajasthan block operated by Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd., oil production is expected to commence during the year 2007-08 and may peak at 6 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum.

From the gas discoveries made in the Krishna Godavari deepwater block operated by Reliance Industries Limited, gas production is expected to commence during the year 2008-09 with a plateau production rate of 40 Million Standard Cubic Metre per Day (MMSCMD).

(c) Any increase in domestic oil and gas production helps in reducing the import dependence of the country to that extent.

(d) & (e) In order to enhance the oil security of the country, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy as under :

i) Accelerate domestic oil and gas production through awarding acreages under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), blocks given to ONGC / OIL on nomination basis and exploration under pre-NELP blocks.
ii) Aggressively pursue acquisition of equity oil and gas in foreign countries.
iii) Create crude oil strategic storage.
iv) Explore alternative sources of hydrocarbons such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and gas hydrates.
v) Encourage conservation of oil by improving efficiencies and technologies.